

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7 and 9-24 are rejected.

Claim 8 is objected to.

Claims 2, 5, 8, 12, 14, 18 and 20-24 are canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 11 and 17 are amended.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17 and 19 is respectfully requested in view of the following:

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responses to Rejections to Claims – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 9-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okada (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,614) (Okada). This rejection is not applicable to the amended claims.

Inasmuch as claim 8 is indicated as allowable, claim 1 is amended to include the recitation of claims 1, 2, 5 and 8. Thus, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are submitted to be allowable.

As a result, the previous rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 102(b) cannot be supported by Okada as applied to claims 1-4 and 9-24.

Responses to Rejections to Claims – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5, 12, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of Aleksic (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0210221) (Aleksic). Claims 6, 13, 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of Nunokawa et al (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0243324) (Nunokawa). Claims 7, 14, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada in view of Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,473) (Kim). This rejection is not applicable to the amended claims.

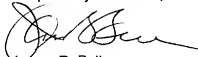
Independent claims 11 and 17 are amended to include recitations similar to the recitation of amended claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least these reasons.

In view of all of the above, the allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 15-17 and 19 is respectfully requested.

The amended claims are supported by the original application.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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